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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/175,156	10/19/1998	KEITH LYNN PUTNAM	98.P.7912.US	6575

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SIEMENS CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
186 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH
ISELIN, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

ESCALANTE, OVIDIO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2645

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/175,156	PUTNAM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ovidio Escalante	2645	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on October 15, 2004. **Claims 1-27** are now pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 10,12-15,22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Milewski US Patent 6,519,326.

Regarding claim 10, Milewski teaches a telephony device (155,160) for playing a customized message to a caller, (abstract; col. 4, lines 46-51), comprising:

a ring detector generating a detection signal in response to an incoming telephone call, (col. 3, lines 47-55; col. 5, lines 5-26 call request signal is detected);

a ringer (voice-ringer) alerting a called party to the incoming call in response to the detection signal, (col. 3, lines 49-55; col. 5, lines 5-26 a voice-ring announcement is played over a telephone speaker or a bell ring can sound);

a command interface for receiving one or more message parameters from the called party, (col. 4, lines 1-7; col. 5, line 63-col. 6, line 7); and

a controller for activating the command interface in response to the detection signal and for transferring, the customized message to the caller, wherein the controller is an element of a telephone (computer/telephone), the customized message being transferred from the telephony device, (col. 5, lines 63-col. 6, line 7; fig. 3);

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wherein the telephone device can respond to the incoming telephone call by answering the call or can accept the call by going off-hook, (col. 4, lines 28-34; col. 5, lines 5-26).

Regarding claim 12, Milewski, as applied to claim 10, teaches an audio interface for receiving a spoken message from the called party, (col. 4, lines 46-51).

Regarding claim 13, Milewski, as applied to claim 12, teaches a memory for storing the spoken message, (col. 4, lines 46-51).

Regarding claim 14, Milewski, as applied to claim 10, teaches a keypad permitting the called party to manually enter the message parameters, (col. 5, line 63-col. 6, line 7).

Regarding claim 15, Milewski, as applied to claim 10, teaches a caller identification unit for displaying caller information to the called party, (fig. 2).

Regarding claim 22, Milewski, as applied to claim 10, teaches wherein the ring detector is configured to detect the incoming phone call based on the incoming call itself, (col. 3, lines 47-55).

Regarding claim 23, Milewski, as applied to claim 22, teaches wherein the ring detector is configured to detect a ring signal of the incoming telephone call, (col. 3, lines 47-55; col. 5, lines 5-26).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 1-9, 16-21 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams US Patent 6,400,814 in view of Wolff et al. US Patent 5,327,486.

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Regarding claim 1, Adams teaches a system for responding to an incoming call, (fig. 6; col. 2, lines 51-64) from a calling party, comprising:

means (telephone 10/call controller 36) for receiving the incoming phone call, (col. 4, lines 4-25);

means for generating a user alert in response to the incoming phone call, (col. 6, lines 3-37);

means for enabling selective entry of a user message (transfer-to-voicemail command message) entered in response to the alert while the incoming call is pending and still ringing to the calling party (col. 6, lines 14-60; call continues to ring until after the user sends a user message).

Adams does not specifically teach of playing the selected user message to the calling party.

Wolff teaches that it was well known in the art to response to an incoming call by selected a user message and means for playing the user message to the calling party, (col. 5, lines 4-6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Adams by playing the selected message to the calling party as taught by Wolff so that the calling party will know how their call is being processed e.g. transferring to voice mail or that the called party is busy.

Regarding claim 2, Adams in view of Wolff teach means for releasing the call after playing the message, (col. 6, lines 27-37).

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As shown above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Adams by playing the selected message to the calling party as taught by Wolff so that the calling party will know how their call is being processed e.g. transferring to voice mail or that the called party is busy.

Regarding claim 3, Adams teaches means for displaying caller identification information to the user, (col. 6, lines 3-14).

Regarding claim 4, Adams teaches wherein the receiving means includes means for activating a user command interface for a predetermined period of time following commencement of the user alert, (col. 6, lines 3-14).

Regarding claims 5 and 6, Adams, as applied above does not specifically teach wherein the receiving means includes a voice recognition unit for recognizing at least one spoken command.

Wolff teaches that it was well known in the art to have receiving means which includes a voice recognition unit for recognizing at least one spoken command, (col. 7, lines 17-22) and wherein the at least one spoken command includes a predetermined instruction (verbal command) and a variable parameter, (col. 6, lines 17-36; col. 7, lines 5-22; figs. 8 and 9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Adams by using speech recognition as taught by Wolff so that the user can operate the device in a hands free mode and so that the system can validate the end user through speaker recognition techniques to ensure privacy protection of the device. This is to make certain that the called party is an authorized user of the receiving device..

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Regarding claim 7, Adams teaches wherein the receiving means includes means for manually selecting the user message, (col. 5, lines 15-46).

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Adams, as applied above, does not specifically teach of recording an audio user message.

Wolff teaches that it was well known in the art to have means for recording an audio user message, (col. 5, lines 57-65; col. 7, lines 17-22) so that a user can send the user message to a calling party, (col. 5, lines 1-6,57-65) and means for storing the user message, (col. 5, lines 1-6,57-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Adams by recording an audio user message as taught by Wolff so that a user can pre-recorded customized user responses for specific callers.

Regarding claim 16, Adams teaches a method for presenting an audio message to a telephone caller, (col. 6, lines 14-60), comprising:

detecting, at a recipient telephone, ringing signaling an incoming telephone call, (col. 6, lines 3-37);

generating, from the recipient telephone, a user alert in response to the incoming call, based on the incoming phone call itself (col. 6, lines 3-37);

receiving a command from a called party in response to the user alert, (col. 6, lines 14-60).

Adams does not specifically teach generating an audio message based on the command.

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Wolff teaches that it was well known in the art to receive a command from the user and to generate an audio message based on the command, (col. 5, lines 1-6,57-65); answering the incoming call, (col. 5, lines 4-6); and playing the audio message to the telephone caller, (col. 5, lines 4-6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Adams by generating an audio message and playing the selected message to the calling party as taught by Wolff so that the calling party will know how their call is being processed e.g. transferring to voice mail or that the called party is busy and so that the called party can create customized voice responses to the caller.

Regarding claims 17 and 18, Adams, as applied to claim 16, does not specifically teach of using voice recognition.

Wolff teaches activating a voice recognition unit to receive a command. (col. 7, lines 17-22; col. 6, lines 17-36; col. 7, lines 5-22; fig. 8). Wolff further teaches recording a spoken message from the called party and including the spoken message in the audio message, (col. 5, lines 1-6,57-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Weishut by using voice recognition to receive spoken commands as taught by Wolff so that the user can operate the device in a hands free mode and so that the system can validate the end user through speaker recognition techniques to ensure privacy protection of the device. This is to make certain that the called party is an authorized user of the receiving device.

Regarding claim 19, Adams, as applied to claim 16, teaches manually entering the command using a keypad, (col. 6, lines 1-6,57-65).

Regarding claim 20, Adams teaches wherein the system is incorporated within a telephone, (fig. 3).

Regarding claim 21, Adams teaches wherein the command interface receives the message parameters from the called party while the incoming call is not yet connected, (col. 5, lines 14-46).

Regarding claim 24, Adams, as applied to claim 16, teaches wherein the detecting step detects the incoming telephone call by detecting a ring signal of the incoming telephone call, (col. 6, lines 3-37).

Regarding claim 25, Adams in view of Wolff, as applied to claim 1, teaches wherein said means for playing the user message to the calling party is configured to cause playing the user message to the calling party in some instances in which the user refuses to answer the incoming phone call, (fig. 8; col. 6, lines 37-45).

As shown above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Adams by playing the selected message to the calling party as taught by Wolff so that the calling party will know how their call is being processed e.g. transferring to voice mail or that the called party is busy.

Regarding claim 26, Adams, as applied to claim 1, teaches wherein the means for generating a user alert in response to the incoming phone call comprises means for detecting the incoming phone call based on the incoming phone call itself, (col. 4, lines 4-25).

Regarding claim 27, Adams, as applied to claim 26, teaches wherein the means for detecting the incoming phone call comprises means for detecting a ring signal of the incoming telephone call, (col. 4, lines 4-25).

6. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milewski in view of Wolff.

Regarding claim 11, Milewski does not specifically teach of using voice recognition for receiving spoken commands that include message parameters.

Wolff teaches a voice recognition unit for receiving spoken command (col. 7, lines 17-22) that include the message parameters, (col. 6, lines 17-36; col. 7, lines 5-22; fig. 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Milewski by using voice recognition to receive spoken commands as taught by Wolff so that the user can operate the device in a hands free mode and so that the system can validate the end user through speaker recognition techniques to ensure privacy protection of the device. This is to make certain that the called party is an authorized user of the receiving device.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed April 1, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 10, Applicants contend that Milewski does not teach "respond to the incoming telephone call by answering the call, transferring the customized message and releasing the call or...accept the call by going off hook." Applicant also states that in Milewski a telephone call is not established until the calling party computer receives the return signal from

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the called party computer. Thus until the message is received back at the calling party, there is no call to be answered and release and Milewski also does not appear to be able to answer the call merely by going off hook. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

As stated in the office action, the Examiner believes that the telephony device can respond to the incoming call since a conversation can occur between the calling and called parties. Furthermore, Milewski teaches that when the speaker is off, then the user has to off-hook the telephone to answer the call. Thus the Examiner believes that the amended claims still read on Milewski. The Examiner also notes that the computer also acts as a telephony device since it is able to make calls.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant contends that Adams was owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment, to the same person, i.e., Siemens Information and Communication Networks, Inc. As such pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103(c), the Examiner should withdraw the rejection. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner believes that while Adams is commonly assigned, withdrawal under 103(c) does not apply to this application since this application does not follow the requirements for removal of commonly assigned prior art. See MPEP 706.02(I) [R-2] and 2136.01 [R-2].

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 872-9306, (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

220 20th Street S.
Crystal Plaza two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ovidio Escalante whose telephone number is 703-308-6262 (571-272-7537 After March 22, 2005). The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 6:30 to 4:00. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan S Tsang can be reached on 703-305-4895 (571-272-7547 After March 22, 2005).

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**OVIDIO ESCALANTE
PATENT EXAMINER**

Ovidio Escalante

Ovidio Escalante
Examiner
Group 2645
March 4, 2005

O.E./oe


**FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**